This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry comprising:

determining a secure password;

providing a system or file;

providing the secure password to a password database independent of the system and the file storage therein in association with a security level;

providing the secure password to a password sub-system for securing the determined system or file;

determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password, the user authorization method determined in dependence upon the security level and some user authorization having different associated security levels than others;

authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method; and

when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to the system or file password subsystem for accessing the system or file wherein the system or file is accessible by manually entering the secure password to the password sub-system.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein determining the secure password comprises automatically determining the secure password.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 2 wherein the determined secure password is secret and remains inaccessible to users of the system.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein the password database comprises a key data file.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 4 wherein the password database is stored within a portable storage medium.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein determining the secure password comprises manually providing the secure password to a password entry sub-system; and recording the password during entry.

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein the password is stored in association with data indicative of the determined system or file.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 1 wherein the determined system or file is stored in association with data indicative of the password.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method of providing improved security for files accessible by password data entry comprising:

        selecting a secured data file;

        providing a password database;

        automatically determining a secure password identifier associated with the secured data file;

        determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password identifier, some user authorization methods having different associated security levels than others;

authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method; and

when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to a selected secured file password entry subsystem.

10.   (Previously Amended) The method of providing improved security for files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 9 wherein the password database comprises a plurality of passwords and wherein determining a secure password identifier comprises determining a password from the plurality of passwords for use in accessing data within the secured data file.

11.   (Previously Amended) A method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry comprising:

determining a plurality of files secured with the first password;

authorizing an individual requesting a change of the first password prior to changing the first password by determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secured first password, where some user authorization methods have different associated security levels than others, and authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method;

when the individual is authorized, providing authorizing a change from the first password to a second other password for securing the plurality of files;

for each file secured with the first password, accessing the file with the first password and securing the file with the second other password; and,

storing the second other password in a password database.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 comprising:

archiving the first password for use in accessing archival files secured with the first password.

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 wherein determining a plurality of files secured with the first password comprises determining from the password database, files associated with the first password.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 15 wherein those files associated with the first password are identified because they are identified by an identifier associated with the first password.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 wherein determining a plurality of files secured with the first password comprises determining from accessible files, those files associated with the first password.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 11 wherein providing a second other password includes automatically generating the second other password.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 18 wherein the method is automatically repeated at intervals.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry as defined in claim 19 wherein the method is

automatically repeated upon detection of a breach of the first password and upon expiry of the first password.

21.   (Previously Presented) A security system that provides improved security for systems or files stored in a file storage that is accessible by password data entry, comprising:

a password sub-system that secures a determined system or file with a secure password;

a password database that stores the secure password independent of the security system and the file storage therein in association with a security level; and

processing means for determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password, the user authorization method determined in dependence upon the security level and some user authorization having different associated security levels than others, for authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method; and when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to the file password sub-system for accessing the system or file wherein the system or file is accessible by manually entering the secure password to the password sub-system.

22.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 21 further comprising means for automatically determining the secure password.

23.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 22 wherein the determined secure password is secret and remains inaccessible to users of the system.

24.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 21 wherein the password database comprises a key data file.

25.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 24 wherein the password database is stored within a portable storage medium.

26.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 21 further comprising a password entry sub-system to which the secure password is manually provided, the password entry sub-system recording the secure password during entry.

27.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 21 wherein the secure password is stored in association with data indicative of the determined system or file.

28.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 21 wherein the determined system or file is stored in association with data indicative of the secure password.

29.   (Previously Presented) A security system that provides improved security for a secured data file stored in a file storage that is accessible by password data entry, comprising:

       a password database that stores a secure password;

       a secured file password entry subsystem; and

       processing means for automatically determining a secure password identifier associated with the secured data file, for determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password identifier, some user authorization methods having different associated security levels than others, for authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method, and when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to the secured file password entry subsystem.

30.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 29 wherein the password database comprises a plurality of passwords and wherein the processing means determines a secure password identifier by determining a password from the plurality of passwords for use in accessing data within the secured data file.

31.   (Previously Presented) A security system that changes a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry, comprising:

       a plurality of files secured with the first password;

processing means for authorizing an individual requesting a change of the first

password prior to changing the first password by determining a user authorization method

having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secured first password, where

some user authorization methods have different associated security levels than others, for

authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method, when the

individual is authorized, for providing a second other password for securing the plurality of

files, and for each file secured with the first password, for accessing the file with the first

password and securing the file with the second other password; and

a password database that stores the second other password.

32.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 31

comprising:

archive storage that archives the first password for use in accessing archival

files secured with the first password.

33.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 31 wherein the

first password is stored in the password database and the plurality of files secured with the

first password is determined from the files associated with the first password in the password

database.

34.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 33 wherein

those files associated with the first password are identified by an identifier associated with the

first password.

35.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 31 wherein the

processing means automatically generates the second other password.

36.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 35 wherein the

processing means automatically generates the second other password at repeated intervals.

37.   (Previously Presented) The security system as defined in claim 35 wherein the processing means automatically generates the second other password upon detection of a breach of the first password and upon expiry of the first password.

Prior to examination add the following claims.

38.   (New) Computer software for providing improved security for systems or files accessible by password data entry comprising:

computer-executable instructions for determining a secure password;

computer-executable instructions for providing a system or file;

computer-executable instructions for providing the secure password to a password database independent of the system and the file storage therein in association with a security level;

computer-executable instructions for providing the secure password to a password sub-system for securing the determined system or file;

computer-executable instructions for determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password, the user authorization method determined in dependence upon the security level and some user authorization having different associated security levels than others;

computer-executable instructions for authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method; and

computer-executable instructions for, when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to the system or file password subsystem for accessing the system or file wherein the system or file is accessible by manually entering the secure password to the password sub-system.

39.   (New) Computer software for providing improved security for files accessible by password data entry comprising:

computer-executable instructions for selecting a secured data file;

computer-executable instructions for providing a password database;

computer-executable instructions for automatically determining a secure password identifier associated with the secured data file;

computer-executable instructions for determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secure password identifier, some user authorization methods having different associated security levels than others;

computer-executable instructions for authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method; and

computer-executable instructions for, when the individual is authorized, retrieving the secure password from the password database and automatically providing the secure password to a selected secured file password entry subsystem.

40.   (New) Computer software for changing a first password for securing files accessible by password data entry comprising:

computer-executable instructions for determining a plurality of files secured with the first password;

computer-executable instructions for authorizing an individual requesting a change of the first password prior to changing the first password by determining a user authorization method having an associated security level sufficient for accessing the secured first password, where some user authorization methods have different associated security levels than others, and authorizing an individual according to the determined user authorization method;

computer-executable instructions for, when the individual is authorized, providing a second other password for securing the plurality of files;

computer-executable instructions for accessing the file with the first password and securing the file with the second other password for each file secured with the first password; and

computer-executable instructions for storing the second other password in a password database.